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His Majesty's Ship Acteon
Liverpool 10th May 1798.

Sir

I beg leave to inform you, there was sent on board His Majesty's Ship Acteon, as volunteers for the Fleet, two young men, whose Drefs & by their Address are above the kind naturally expected to enter into the Service, and whom I suspect to be flying from the Kingdom, they say they came from Dublin, they were Passengers going for Jamaica in a West Indianman to purchase Commissions in the Army there, But that they had been arrested and forced to pay the money, which rendered them incapable of paying their Passage, the inconsistency of their story, and the earnest desire they have to go away in the Charon,

Evan Nepean Esq.

confirming

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confirming me in my Opinion,
thought it proper their Lordships
should be acquainted with the circum-
stance, to whom he pleased to
communicate it. I have sent the
descriptions in case they should be
as I suspect, I mean to detain
them until such time as I hear
further from you. I have the
honor to be
Yc
Wm^d Blizard

Michael James --- Age 23. 5 ft 5 1/2 high, Brown
Complexion, Grey Eyes, ~~the~~
Hair tied, long visage, freckled
Face, Scar over his left Eye
Slender made born in the
County of Limerick Ireland

John James --- Age 21. 5 ft 4 high, Fair Com-
plexion, grey Eyes, light
brown Hair tied, full face
lightly pitted with the small
Pox, stout made, born in
the County of Limerick Ireland

Copy

Vill de Paris before Cadix
20th April 1798

Sir,

I did not pay much attention to the history of the Man described in the enclosed when it was first related some many months ago, because I have experienced many impositions of the kind practiced with a view to be released from the King's Service, but Captain Miller being so thoroughly convinced that the Prisoner did commit the atrocious Murder he has confessed, and he being in other respects a most profligate Character, I have thought it my duty to send him to England in the *Blanche*, in order to his being brought to Trial, and Captain Gotham has my directions to keep him in safe custody until he receives directions from the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty how to dispose of him. — I am &c

S^t VincentEdw. Nepean Esq^r

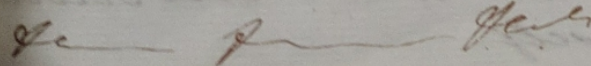
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Thesus off Cadiz 13th April 1798

My Lord,

I have the honor to enclose
to your Lordship a letter from
the Rev. & Frederick Morris Chaplain of
His Majesty's Ship Thesus under my
command, together with a confession
made to him by William Connor
belonging to the said ship of his
having committed a murder, and
robbery in Ireland for which he
was taken up tried and condemned
but escaped by bribing the jailor.

I acknowledge to your Lordship
I have long known of this crime but
the appearance of deep and
sincere contrition in Connor
prevented my taking any steps
to deliver him to justice in hopes
that his internal sufferings would
render him in future a worthy
subject

Carl. St Vincent


subject to His Majesty, but for
several months past his conduct
having totally changed to that
of an idle, gambling vagabond,
and having the strongest conviction
in my own mind, supported by
some positive, and much circum-
stantial evidence; and the
general opinion of the Officers
that he was principally concerned
in a considerable robbery on
board, I conceived it no longer
proper to suffer such a character
to be at large in the ship, and
therefore caused him to be put
in Irons on his own confession
that he might suffer the fate the
Law has already doomed him
to, and he richly merits; and
have now to request your honor's
orders for my government respecting

P.S. I have him. - I have the honor to be
named him as
upon the ship's Books Wm Connor. B. Willott M.D.
to the Chaplain he calls himself
John Connor.

Theseus of Cadiz 31st Mar 1798

Copy

Sir,

I conceive it my duty to
send you the Particulars of a
declaration made to me by John
Connor of His Majesty's Ship Theseus,
the 22^d May 1797 (and now under
your command) concerning a
robbery and Murder committed
by him and his Brother, on the
Body of the Rev.^d Alex.^r McGuroy
and his wife, belonging to the
Townland of Arknavallack.

I am &c

Fred.^t Morris.

To Ralph Willatt Miller Esq.
Captain H. M. S. Theseus.

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Thames, off Cadiz, 22^d Aug 1798

Question.

By desire of Captain Aylmer, I have sent
for you here Connor, to enquire into the
Nature of the Crime, you wished to confide
to him on the Quarter Deck this Morning.

Connor - I have no rest by day or night and am
greatly troubled in mind thro' the
appearance of the Minister continually
before my face, whom I shot and robbed,
my Brother was with me, and threatened
to take my life, with his Pistol held at
my Ear, if I did not first fire into the
Carriage where the Minister and his
Lady were, I then fired immediately
knowing my Brother was determined
in what he said, and shot the
Clergyman, robbed him of a gold
watch, his Lady of a Purse of money
containing nearly £50, my Brother
stopt the Carriage holding his Pistol
at the Driver to prevent his going on,
soon after we were both apprehended
and taken to Downpatrick Goal,
tried for our lives and sentenced
to Death, - willing to try to make our
escape if possible, I one Evening told
the Goaler, Hugh Robinson, there was
a gold watch for him if we could
be set at liberty, he took the watch
and sent us off about 4 o'clock in
The

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the morning, my Brother was soon taken
and hanged, I made my escape to
Donaghadee, to Port Patrick, to Glasgow
I entered on board a Sailer, came to
Plymouth and was ordered on
board the Cambridge, I have seen
in the Newspaper an Advertisement
describing my person &c and rather
than suffer in mind what I do at
present, my wish is to be returned
to Prison, undergo the punishment
of Death passed upon me for in this
world I can have no rest or peace,
I wished to be removed to some quiet
part of the ship, and if Mr Hennah
would let me remain down below
not to see light I shall be thankful.

Question - What was the Ministers Name, was
he a Catholic or a Protestant.

Connor - His Name was Alexander McGordon
a Protestant Minister.

Question - What Religion do you profess -
or was brought up in.

Connor - A Protestant, my Father is a
Protestant and my Mother a
Catholic, the Boys were all
Protestants, and the Girls Catholics
which often caused disputes
between the Family.

Question - Your Father & Mother are both living
Connor -

Connor - Both are living in the Townland of Arkmavallack.

Question - What are their Christian Names.

Connor - Thomas and Peggy. —

Question - Does your Father follow any Trade

Connor - yes, he is a Stone Mason, also keeps a Blacksmith's Shop. —

Question - From whom did you and your Brother get the Pistols. —

Connor - My Brother gave me mine, and I am not certain where he got them but believe it was from Billy Fullerton of the Townland of Crappan, an acquaintance of his.

Question - Tell me your Brother's name and his Age?

Connor - James Connor, I think he was twenty five years old as I am nineteen.

Question - Did your Father or Mother know your intention before the Murder and Robbery. —

Connor - No.

Question - you are very certain that you gave the Gold Watch to Hugh Robinson and that in consequence of the Bribe you and your Brother

were

were set at liberty?

Connor - I am very certain of it, I should know the watch again and so would William McFurdy the Minister's son.

Question Did you ever hear of Robinsons accepting a bribe before.

Connor - No Never.

Question you saw in the Newspapers an Advertisement to apprehend your person, or was you told so.

Connor I picked it up in a little room by accident at my Cousins where I slept.

Question What made you go particularly to Scotland.

Connor Having a Relation there, one Tom Fitzpatrick, living at Tradestown in Glasgow.

Question. you are certain that your Brother was taken and hanged.

Connor, Very certain. - I think so.

Question. you are desirous for me to make application to the first Lieutenant to remove you from some

some quiet part of the ship, and
also to speak to the Captain to
send you home the first
convenient opportunity. —

Connor. If you please. —

Question. You are very miserable in
mind, and would readily go
home to suffer death rather
than remain here. —

Connor. Much rather go home and end
my torments. —

This original Declaration
was made before me the 22^d
May 1797

Fred. K. Morris

Captain of the Thetis.

Tangier 19th April 1798

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My Lord,

I am very sorry to inform your Lordship that the Emperor has stopp'd the Exportation of Sheep and Bullocks — other Articles are left free as usual. The Orders are general for all Nations, but certainly meant against us, because it is well known that we are almost the only shippers of Cattle, while we take little or no Poultry, of which our Enemies export great quantities. —

I demanded of the Customs whether a Kings Ship coming in would be supplied as usual, and was answered yes, but not so largely as formerly, lest they should take it to the Fleet, or land it in Gibraltar; this reply sufficiently points out the two objects in view. I have long ago told the Minister that Spain would carry this point, and I now take the liberty to enclose another Letter on the subject.

Two days since a considerable quantity of Powder arrived here as a present for the Emperor, and we

The Right Honble
Earl of St Vincent &c. &c.
St Vincent &c. &c.

daily

daily expect Mr John Salmon from
Badiz who is coming here as Envoy to
complete their intrigues: he brings
a very valuable present, beside which
I am told he has with him for the
Crown Company 200,000 Lobs. His
Brother the Consul says he comes in
a Frigate, but they seem to talk too
publicly of that for its being true,
rather believe he will come in a
Neutral or get over from Tariff.

I enclose by your Lordship a small
Spanish report—

The Spanish Consul declares that
on the night of the 20th a ship of the line
two frigates, and a merchant vessel
sailed from Badiz, but I have in my
possession an intercepted letter which
was going to Mozambique to be forwarded
to the Canaries, of which the following
is a translated Paragraph.—"On the
20th Inst." sailed from this at midnight
two frigates, with 400 men of the Queen's
Regiment, with Ammunition &c, some
said for the Canaries, others for our
Islands (Canaries) and others for
Guiana, and notwithstanding all this
trouble the Bishop and we took, we
could not discover the truth, I have
however at a venture given the
Commander of the frigates a letter for
you

you, that if he touches at the Islands you may know we are well." - There is something so very particular in this letter that if a ship of the line here sailed it would have been mentioned.

Another letter for the same place says the blockade is so strict that they respect no neutral that has military stores on board, in consequence of which he had obtained for a vessel a Passport from Genoa, and after four days would sail with the first strong. September, the letters were of the 13th Inst.

I am sorry my Lord that the information I sent to Sir John Ord on the 22^d past proved useless, for it was very correct - The Spanish Fleet was detained some time by the winds, and the very day they were to have sailed a Dane entered with the news that your ships had left Lisbon. I am almost sorry for the poor Vice Roy of Mexico, He told a friend of mine who dined with him the day he embarked that his credit was exhausted in every lane and street of Cadix where he had been a twelvemonth with near fifty people to feed, and his Pay not commencing till his arrival in Mexico. It is not

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not a trifle that will feed one in
Cadix for the distress in Spain is
beyond description.

I am told my lord that they
certainly mean to slip out small
detachments, and that a thousand
of the Walcott Guards will be
hazarded. Two vessels with money
from the Havannah have I hear
put into Ferrol.

I have the honor to be &c.

J. M. Neutra

For Mr. Nepeans of the

18th May 1798.

Copy

Admiralty Office, June 1790.

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Sir,

Having laid before my Lords
Commanders of the Admiralty your letter of the
4th Inst^t transmitting by the Duke of Portland
Directions an application which His Grace
had received from the Mayor of Plymouth
respecting Henry Garnier taken on Board
Le Brave French Privateer; I am directed
by their Lordships to acquaint you for
the Information of His Grace that they
have given Directions to the Transport
Board to release the said Henry Garnier
and give him in charge of the Mayor
of Plymouth. I am &c

Edw. Keppel

Wm Wickham Esq^r

Admiralty Office, 1st June 1798

Sir,

The Duke of Portland having
in his Letter of the 24th of last
Month, transmitted to my Lords
Commissioners of the Admiralty, an
Extract of a Letter which His Grace
had received from Major General
Sheffel, stating, that no orders had
been received at Martinique for
payment of the Expences for the Rent
of Houses occupied by His Majesty's
Naval Department in that Island;
I have their Lordships Commands to
acquaint you that on the 4th April
1797, orders were given to the Navy

Board

Wm King Esq^r

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Board to cause the Expenses which
might have been, or should thereaft-
er, incurred for the Rent of Houses
occupied by His Majesty's Naval
Department in Martinique, to be
discharged.

I am,

Sir,

Your most humble Servant

Evan Peckham

Admiralty Office, 1st June 1798

Sir

Captain Uzdold of His Majesty's
Ship Acteon at Liverpool, having by
his Letter of the 31st Ultimo, acquainted
me, for the information of my Lords
Commissioners of the Admiralty, that he
had for the reasons therein mentioned,
received on board that Ship two
Persons who were Passengers on board
a Ketch which had arrived at that
Port from Ireland; and desired to
receive their Lordships directions
respecting the disposal of the said
Persons; I am commanded by their
Lordships to send you herewith a
Copy of the said Letter for the infor-
mation of the Duke of Portland, and
to desire you will be pleased to receive

His

Y^{rs} Wickham Esq^r

His Grace's directions respecting the
disposal of the Persons aforementioned.

I have it farther in command to
acquaint you for His Grace's information
that their Lordships have directed
Captain Uguld to take charge of, and
detain the aforementioned Persons,
until the Mayor of Liverpool shall
have received directions concerning
them, and also to give every assistance
in his power to the Magistracy in
carrying into execution the Instructions
they have received from His Grace in
this important Crisis; receiving on
board the said Ship any Persons of
the description ordered to be stopped,
upon application being made to
for that purpose by the Mayor.

I am,

Sir,

Your most humble Servant
Evan Nepean